HOW ONE MAN BEGAN WRITING

THOMAS NELSON PAGE TELLS OF HIS EARLY DAYS.

to being interviewed, which is not often. he task of the interviewer is made enjoyable not only by what the author save in its but by his manner of saving it Much as Mr. Page dislikes the pronoun of the first person, and opposed as he is to talking about himself in point, his is so nearly the perfection of iraditional courtesv city there will be the apportunity for men and there is so much of geniality in his to be sufficiently secluded for reflection, smile that one must forgive him for his at present New York is rather like

Europe and a rest at York Harbor, Me-Mr. Page has about completed the enargement of his monograph on Gen. Robert E. Lee, thus making over the work into a biography.

My reason for rewriting the monograph," said Mr. Page in answer to a question, "is that the English reviewers. then the book was published over there a couple of years ago, said that it would have been more complete if I had given the military side of Lee, on which his great reputation was founded, as fully as I had endeavored to give the personal

"Yes, I have been doing some other work also some stories and for some weeks past have been working in a way on a novel. No, there isn't anything I could say about it except that it is along rather new lines for me. My idea." Mr. Page continued. "is to try to cover in my ooks as completely as I am capable of doing the evolution of society in America. and in doing this, while my books are not written in any chronological sequence, I try to take things that strike me as most vital in society at least as they catch me in the progression of society - just as they deal with a matter in which I am profoundly interested."

"How did you come to write your first book?"

"Well I had always been ambitious to write, and I had scribbled from the time was a boy Just prior to the time of the Yorktown Centennial in 1881, when they were talking about a celebration. I got the idea that I should like to write up orktown for the old Scribner's Magazine. This magazine had published some verses of mine in negro dialect two or three years before, and when I applied for the privilege of writing the article on Yorktown, which was the old home of my family, with a view to bettering my chances for the billet, I sent the editor a story and a poem. The story was accepted and the poem was returned, though that too was long afterward accepted and published. The story was 'Marse Chan. Did you go through the usual course of baving manuscripts returned?"

Not in the beginning at least so far as magazines were concerned, though I did in the case of some newspapers. and I have since gone through that course with magazines. In fact I may say that I am still pursuing that course

Do you not send them under your own

Yes, always. It is this way. When I have written anything that I think worth sending out I am likely to try it on an editor, making it very clearly understood that he must not take it unless he wants it, and if he doesn't appear very eager deed justified by the fact that in the uniabout it I am likely to let the manuscript versity with which I am connected a large account of a trip in Europe, adorned soak for a little while and then go at it number of teachers are being trained with many photographs taken by the with a fresh eye. I am speaking of a every year for their responsible office authors. They went through England, special editor or two, in whose judgment and accordingly, acting in conjunction with with fiving visits to Scotland and Ireland. I have confidence, for though the editor of the crossed over to Holland, went up

Do you always rewrite in such a case? be useful to others certain why the editor is not as arden it the story as I have hoped and make an effort to better the story." apt to differ in their views as to the merital

"Oh, yes, in every case, as far as I know, there has been a difference, due, I think, to the makeup of magazines. One editor might feel that a certain sort of story would fill a gap in his magazine, while another might have on hand as many of that kind as he wished. Then an editor

soon after the civil war to publish a story dealing so exclusively with the Southern side. At any rate that was a fact, though when it was published it could not have met with a kinder re-

you ever write a story that was and that afterward proved

sful I think as any of my others. though the failure to accept it was for reasons such as I have referred to.

"Would you care to give an instance?"
"A story called Run to Seed," which I ditor termed profanity. No. I have editor termed profanity No. I have never had a completed novel declined, but my last novel. John Marvel, was written ten or twelve years ago in the form of a short story that would have run through only two or three numbers of a magazine It was shown to an editor who did not want it, and afterward to another who did But a condition was attached to its pub-lication which the second editor did not care to accept, and by this time the story was beginning to expand in my mind in a larger way and I was beginning to feel that if I were going to deal with vital problems of the present day I should use

rence suggests a story tragic incident will take hold of a man and as he begins to revolve it in his mind its relation to life at large will assume its due place, and then when he undertakes to present it in its proper setting, if he This will be followed by others of Mr. to relation to life at large will assume its dury. It is a rend due place, and then when he undertakes her's Rembrandt, to present it in its proper setting, if he would be true to conditions, he finds a reflaction of life much broader than that he first had in rand. he first had in mind I knew of a young has engraved nearly 300 wood blocks, preacher once going and rescuing an all of which have appeared in the Century. manner I have pictured in John Marvel, and I think this was really the genesis of

story No, there is no especial literary centre in America as there is in England, at least not in the sense that London is the lin-erary centre of that country or Paris is the literary capital of France. From time on the water wagon in the United States, to time there have been places or sections, which might be described as literary sentral of the figures eited by Dr. Henry Smith Williams in his article in the according to the figures eited by Dr. Henry Smith Williams in his article in the according to the figures eited by Dr. Henry Smith Williams in his article in the according to the figures eited by Dr. Henry Smith Williams in his article in the according to the figures eited by Dr. Henry Smith Williams in his article in the according to the figures eited by Dr. Henry Smith Williams in his article in the according to the figures eited by Dr. Henry Smith Williams in his article in the according to the figures eited by Dr. Henry Smith Williams in his article in the according to the figures eited by Dr. Henry Smith Williams in his article in the according to the figures eited by Dr. Henry Smith Williams in his article in the according to the figures eited by Dr. Henry Smith Williams in his article in the according to the figures eited by Dr. Henry Smith Williams in his article in the according to the figures eited by Dr. Henry Smith Williams in his article in the according to the figures eited by Dr. Henry Smith Williams in his article in the according to the figures eited by Dr. Henry Smith Williams in his article in the according to the figures eited by Dr. Henry Smith Williams in his article in the according to the figures eited by Dr. Henry Smith Williams in his article in the according to the figures eited by Dr. Henry Smith Williams in his article in the according to the figures eited by Dr. Henry Smith Williams of the water wagon in the United States.

Instead of a new calendar the combination of Oliver Herford, Ethel Watts and Addison Mizzer issues the state of the water wagon. The Strength of the water wagon in the United States.

Takes from the Vashinghous Irv in the critical from the Company Greenlawn of the water wagon in the Company Greenlawn of the critical from the Company Greenlawn of the critical from t

assert that the literary centre of the country had moved to New York. If it has not already moved hither, in my opinion the literary centre is eventually

Why Now York has not more manifestly become the literary course of the country in the sonse of a London or a land that the drawing perhaps is better than the country in the sonse of a London or a land that the drawing perhaps is better than the country in the America's Literary Centre.

When Thomas Nelson Page submits the commerce, and the chief activities here operate so generally to being interviewed, which is not often, being interviewed, which is not often, being interviewed, which is not often, being interviewer is made entered to the commercial ask of the interviewer is made entered to the commercial ask of the interviewer is made entered to the commercial ask of the interviewer is made entered to the commercial ask of the interviewer is made entered to the commercial ask of the interviewer is made entered to the commercial ask of the interviewer is made entered to the commercial ask of the interviewer is made entered to the commercial ask of the interviewer is made entered to the commercial ask of the interviewer is made entered to the commercial ask of the interviewer is made entered to the commercial ask of the interviewer is made entered to the commercial ask of the interviewer is made entered to the commercial ask of the interviewer is made entered to the commercial ask of the control of the drawing perhaps is better than the coloring. The pictures, however, are nearly all excellent compositions in which the drawing perhaps is better than the coloring. The pictures, however, are nearly all excellent compositions in which the drawing perhaps is better than the coloring. The pictures, however, are nearly all excellent compositions in which the drawing perhaps is better than the coloring. in its great newspapers and periodicals. For the quieter and more abstract side of literature it seems to me the rush and roar and strife of New York do not present the necessary conditions. The time will doubtless come when in the heart of the

making it necessary to ask him many questions instead of just being able to mention a them at the outset and then just listen.

Mr. and Mrs. Page have just got to New York is rather like a great markstplage.

Mr. and Mrs. Page have just got to New York on their way to Washington, after dividing the summer between a trip to Europe and a rest at York Harbor, Me.

About him was the rattle and roar and its proval. About him was the rattle and rear and splash of 100 tables, at which every stock on the market was being discussed, but Henry M. Alden was among the writers and the poets, and not even De Quincey or Charles Lamb ever talked more charm-

New York cannot be properly termed the literary centre of the country for one reason, because of the vast extent of the country itself, which makes it imprac-ticable to reach here easily and with little cost, and a literary man may be produced anywhere. Then there is the apparent lack of individuality in a great city which would be less pronounced in a smaller place. Men in great crowds rub of their salient features and don't make such obvious material for the purposes of fiction. So many of them act alike and look alike that one in writing a story about New York is apt to be driven for material either to the extreme poor.

"Still I believe New York must become a literary centre equally with London and Paris, but it will be only when editors and publishers have learned that the news stands are not to be the final tests of literature, and when there shall be some other standard among people than that cost, and a literary man may be produced anywhere. Then there is the apparent

other standard among people than that of the 'best seller.' Though," Mr. Page added with a smile, "personally I should not round being a 'best seller."

SIR OLIVER LODGE'S NEW BOOK. A Foreword in Explanation of Ilis "Reason and Heller

"Reason and Belief." is announced by Moffat, Yard & Co., is generally regarded now as the principal ghost hunter of the world. In the preface, written at Diety September 27, he outlines the scope of his

The converging influence of discoveries made during the pineteenth century in many diverse departments of knowledge has of late years notably increased the incertainty which thoughtful persons have often felt about the best method of utilizing Old Testament narratives for the education and edification of children So nuch has had to be modified or discarded in deference to scientific discoveries which ere in process of popular assimilation, that a hesitating, cautious attitude is not only easonable but meritorious. Nor has the difficulty been altogether confined to the oldest writings, it cannot be maintained that general conviction of the truth of the ardinal doctrines of the New Testament has remained quite unshaken

In so far however as my own researches have led me to perceive a profound sub-stratum of truth underlying ancient docscience instead of undermining actually illustrates and illumines some of them. I conceive it to be my duty as well as my privilege to indicate to the best of my ability how matters stand.

I have confidence, for thought the torial judgment is far from infallible the torial judgment is far from infallible the trained professional mind, added to a feeling for literature, is something for literature, is something for such discourses in the hope that it may across the Lombard plain to Venice, got

of incarnation in general, and ultimately leads up to a brief consideration of the their way thence to Paris. The journey momentous Christian doctrine, the incarna- was accomplished between May and Sep-Part II. furnishes hints and suggestions for the effective treating of the Old Testament in the light of the doctrine of evolution. Part III. is of the nature of an

The work is not argumentative, it is exexperience on which the teaching is based the lines on which I have been led to the position here indicated and sustained of that kind as he wished. Then an editor might take a story at one time and not wish it at another for the same reason.

"Marse Chan was not published for four years after its acceptance because, I believe, the year 1881 was thought too soon after the civil war to publish a better the facts have been misinterpreted. if so then for that misinterpretation ! they have led me a few steps onward in the undertake the exposition, incidentally ij. Grav. Dana those at the bottom, who lustrating it from the writings of such have died more recently, are equally well thinkers as have preceded me in the quest known to students in their particular and have arrived at the same sort of ideas lines. The biographers in general dwell by other paths

it may be reached by many diverse routes. will therefore be able to form a good have always esteemed one of the best things I ever wrote, was declined by a ever far apart they are at the start and magazine because it had in it what the however roundabout their journey may men. however roundabout their journey may hope to meet on such intermediate and The essays which Dr. James J. Walsh temporary summits as can be attained at of Fordham University has gathered pany the present stage of earthly existence.

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Is it your experience that a real occur
The problems of the present day I should use engraving masterpletes of painting the galleries of Italy, Holland, Belgium, England, Spa.n and France has at last returned to continue his work in America.

Mr. Cole has already begun on a new engraving masterpieces of painting in

series of the masterpieces quently Some one picturesque or incident will take hold of a man block engraved by Mr Cole since his

During his long stay abroad Mr. Cole ng an all of which have appeared in the Century, exame in all of these, crities agree, he has maintries, tained a high standard of beauty and ests of charm as well as unswerving devotion to the qualities of the original painting.

The Water Wagon's Advance.

on the water wagon in the United States. used as a school text book.

Continued from Ninth Page to be here, for one reason, if ne other, that this is the centre of publishing. John Bunyan's "The Pilgrim's Progress" There are of course, many other obvious (E. P. Dutton and Company). The illus-

NEW ROOKS.

(E. P. Dutton and Company) The illustrations to this, by Frank C. Pape, are

The imaginations of a little girl sick with fever are woven into various fairy webs by Mrs Laura, E. Richards in "A Happy Little Time" (Dana Estes and Company) The pathos comes from the suppressed anxiety of her elders while the child is recovering Mrs Richards's taste in always good, and this story is intended for very small children, probably to comfort them during convalesence, but it comes pretty close to false sentiment

Mr Clifton Johnson makes a good be ginning, in a series of "Golden Books for the Young" (The Baker and Taylor ('ompany) which he is editing, by one paring the story of 'Robin Hood' him The tale of that redoubtable outlaw and his merry men is the source of unceas ing joy to properly constituted boys and Mr. Johnson tells it again in an interesting manner In an introduction he explains where the stories came from. The pic tures by Willard Bonte are good and it tostrative. The other volume issued in also well chosen; a selection by Anna I weed from the "Arabian Nights." a classic that youth will enjoy hest in selected tales. These also are illustrated The books are printed satisfactorily attractively

Rell James published with music by Carrie Stone Freeman, by Paul Elder and Company, San Francisco, under the title and well suited to the intelligence of children The illustrations by Rita Bell lames are very good. The pamphlet seems admirably adapated for use in the

An elementary treatise on what is now termed physiography by Julia E. Rogers. has been added to the "Every Child Should Know" series, with the title "Earth and Sky" (Doubleday, Page and Company). The main facts concerning the formation of the earth and the early geologic periods Sir Oliver Lodge, the celebrated English are told in simple language. This takes scientist and head of the Society of Psy- up the greater part of the book. At the chical Research, whose latest book, end directions for discovering the principal constellations and stars are appended

Other Books

From his own account Mr. Waiter Sey mour, who writes "Ups and Downs of a Wandering Life" (Appletons) is the rolling stone of his family. He was a near relative of the several Admirals Sir Michael and is the elder brother of Admiral Sir Edward Hobart Seymour of China fame. Having attained his threescore years and ten, he writes his reminiscences He went to Oxford but did not take a degree; he tried several places in the civil service, which he did not retain, and after a time took to visiting foreign lands, whether as a "promoter" or an employee of investors he does not make clear. He is singularly reticent about himself and his affairs and prefers to dwell on facts every one knows about the countries he saw Argentina. Paraguay, Venezuela, Spain, Portugal, South Africa, Egypt, Rumania He tells many good and amusing stories, most of them of respectable antiquity and some of them rather coarse.

The use of the motor car is creating a new branch of travel literature that is growing fast. The latest addition is Ribbon Roads," by A T. and B R. Wood (G. P. Putnam's Sons), an unpretentious Part I of this book deals with the subject as far south as Rome and returned by the coast to the French border, zigzagging sions. The reader will get from the book suggestions for several interesting tours which he may be tempted to imitate.

edits in "Leading American Men of and no scientific man will dispute the right of the seventeen men whose lives are told to be in the list. The most famous of all Benjamin Franklin is omitted purposely, as he needs a volume all to himself. The roll begins with Count Rumam responsible, but I venture to hope that ford; those who follow next are known direction of truth. It is because this is Henry, Agassiz, Jeffries Wyman, Asa. Grav. Dana those at the bottom, who on the real achievement of the men. For this is characteristic of truth, that though a few turn to eulogy; the reader idea of what America has done in science

in "Education. How Old the New" (Fordham University Press) are fascinating. as might be expected from the historian The title essay is a delightful exposition of the many modern ideas that were familiar to the ancient Egyptians. Then universities of the Middle Ages; of popular education and woman's education. then and now; of the origins of American education, in the Spanish colonies; he reviews the history of medicine for 6,000 years and touches on other educational matters. At the end he makes fun of G.P. New England. It is all bright and witty and based on deep erudition and will lans; convince the reader that our remote forefathers knew something as well as ourselves

tory of the War of Secession", is published in a fifth edition, revised and enlarged by the Wessels and Bissell Company. In this new form it makes a hand-Forty million people are theoretically type, with no indication that it has been some volume, printed in unusually large



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John Redmond, M. P. edited LORD BYRON, THE INCONSTANT. Francis Gribble Says His Loves Were His

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Francis Gribble, the latest commentator on the character of Lord Byron. finds a perplexity in choosing the title for his book and in frankly saying so he turns a very neat bit of characterization to which the shade of the Hellespont swimmer might take exception.

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Nevertheless Mr. Gribble elects to call his book "The bove Affairs of Lord Byron," and the November Book Buyer notes one comprehensive passage in which the biographer sums up his view of the character of his subject. This is what he says:

"His whole life was deflected from its

"His whole life was deflected from by

"His whole life was deflected from its course and thrown out of gear, first by his unhappy passion for Mary Chaworth, secondly by the way in which women of all ranks, flattering his vanity for the gratification of their own, importuned him with the offer of their hearts."

That is Berrole life in a notabell That is Byron's life in a nutshell.

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tugal, is really too old to do more than direct affairs. His works on history and philosophy are world renowned. Like Ahmed Riza, he has been inspired by Comte.

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